



# Joshua Tree National Park

## Wildflower Report

Updated February 20, 2015

Weekly wildflower reports are posted on the park website,  
<http://www.nps.gov/jotr/planyourvisit/blooms.htm>,  
throughout the peak season (typically mid-February through early May).

### Wilson Canyon

Dominant flowers are  
yellow Bladderpod  
bushes



Black Rock Campground  
and Keys View have  
budding Joshua tree  
flowers!



The dominant species visible in the park are the Bladderpod bushes (*Cleome isomeris*). Within Wilson Canyon, other flowers are Desert Starvine (*Brandegea bigelovii*), Desert Globe-Mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), Brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), Turpentine broom (*Thamnosma montana*), Creosote Bush (*Larrea tridentata*), Thick-Leaf Ground-Cherry (*Physalis crassifolia*), Desert-Lavender (*Hyptis emoryi*), Coyote Tobacco (*Nicotiana obtusifolia*), and Wolfberry (*Lycium schweinfurthii*).

### Cottonwood Canyon

Dominant shrubs are  
yellow Bladderpod & red  
Chuparosa bushes



Desert Rock Pea (*Lotus rigidus*, above left, yellow) is becoming more obvious along the road of Cottonwood Canyon. Canterbury Bells (*Phacelia campanularia*) are reported along Cottonwood Wash. More common are Bladderpod (*Cleome isomeris*), Chuparosa (*Justicia californica*), Desert Lavender (*Hyptis emoryi*), and Mistletoe (*Phoradendron californicum*). Less abundant are Sweetbush (*Bebbia juncea*), Starvine (*Brandegea bigelovii*), Coyote Tobacco (*Nicotiana obtusifolia*),

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Thick-Leaf Ground-Cherry (*Physalis crassifolia*), Trixis (*T. californica*), Bush Peppergrass (*Lepidium fremontii*), Climbing Milkweed (*Sarcostemma cyanchoides*), and Globe Mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*).

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### **Cholla Cactus Garden**



Though no cacti are blooming, there are a few perennial flowers in the area, like Coyote Tobacco (*Nicotiana obtusifolia*, shown). Others include Thick-Leaf Ground-Cherry (*Physalis crassifolia*). At the Ocotillo Patch (*Fouquieria splendens*) blossoms are very few at this time.

### **Porcupine Wash**



Emory's Rock-Daisy (above left, white) and a closer view of the Bladderpod (*Cleome isomeris*, above right, yellow). The walk toward Ruby Lee Mine is showing more variety, yet low abundance of Desert Lavender (*Hyptis emoryi*), Starvine (*Brandegea bigelovii*), and Desert Mistletoe (*Phoradendron californicum*). Others include Creosote (*Larrea tridentata*), Viguiera (*Bahiopsis parishii*), Spanish Needles (*Palafoxia arida*), Bush Peppergrass (*Lepidium fremontii*), Canterbury Bells (*Phacelia campanularia*), California Buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), Desert Globe Mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), and Paperbag Bush (*Scutellaria Mexicana*).

### **Rattlesnake Canyon**

Reported blooms are of Bladderpods (*Cleome isomeris*), Desert Mistletoe (*Phoradendron californicum*), and Desert Almond (*Prunus fasciculata*).

### **Let Them Grow**

Leave wildflowers undisturbed for others to enjoy. Joshua Tree was first established as a national monument in 1936 to protect desert vegetation that was being carried away and planted in Los Angeles gardens. Today, help us continue in our mission “to preserve unimpaired” the beautiful plants of the Mojave and Colorado Deserts: don't pick wildflowers.